decision of a joint session of the non-official members of the representative assemblies. All constitutional questions, *e. g.*, whether there should be one representative assembly or two, the franchise, communal representation, etc., should be settled by means of such consultation.

He added that such representatives would consider it a great honour and privilege to work under the present Dewan till such time as he proposed to retire from his present onerous position.

The Member in conclusion requested the Dewan to submit his suggestion before His Highness the Maha Raja and let the representatives of the people know His Highness' commands as early as possible. He also submitted that the suggestion be put to the vote of the Assembly and the result of the voting communicated to His Highness the Maha Raja.

President's repty.—The only answer that I can just now give is that your representation has been noted by the Government.

Member.—I only request that the matter be submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja.

President.—You are sending in a memorial ; let that also come.

120. Some urgent needs of the Karunagapalli Taluk.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) began by saying that the Government were not treating all the taluks of the State fairly and justly in the matter of providing roads and other public conveniences. He pointed out that the distribution of public funds for public purposes should be made only after considering the actual needs, the revenue, and the amount already spent for public works in each taluk. The proportion could be varied if necessary for proper reasons at regular intervals of about 5 years.

Karunagapalli, especially the portion comprising the northern *pakuthies* of it, had long been neglected by the Government in the matter of public works, though that area was among the most densely populated portions of the State and furnished a greater amount of revenue to the State than most other areas of equal extent. He therefore prayed that the Government might allot fairly large sums annually for public works in that area. He also represented that the present method of spending the amounts allotted for public works was not at all satisfactory. The P. W. D. often prepared plans and estimates for works without adequate knowledge of local conditions and without consulting the local inhabitants. As a result, many roads, bridges and culverts had been washed away during floods. He said that two bridges and culverts and portions of roads in Krishnapuram *pakuthi* alone had been thus destroyed. He requested that the level of the bridge which was being constructed there might be raised by at least four feet fixed for it. He complained that the gradient of the bridge on the village road from Putuppalli to Kayankulam was too steep for safe footing in rainy weather. The matter was brought to the notice of the P. W. D. authorities, who nailed reapers to the planks of the bridge. This proved a source of great annoyance to passers-by whose feet were often hurt by the projecting reapers. He next pointed out that, in the low-lying taluks on the eastern side of the backwaters, roads from the shore of the backwaters towards the east were more necessary than those from north to south. Long roads from north to south were a luxury, while the former was a necessity. He requested the Government to remember that fact in their future schemes of public works.

As regards the roads required in the north-western *pakuthies* of Putuppalli, Perinad and Kulasekharapuram, he said that one important road for each *pakuthi* might be taken up and finished as soon as practicable. The roads required for the area in the order of urgency were:—

(1) a road from Putuppalli to Krishnapuram;
(2) a road from Ayiramtengu to Ochira; and
(3) a road from Todiyil to Vallikkavu *via* Kulasekharapuram.

The Member then submitted a list of public works needed in the northern *pakuthies*. He said that the following roads had to be made cartable:—

(1) a road, one mile long, from Krishnapuram due west to the shore of the Kayankulam lake, with two bridges over canals;

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(2) a road from Ayiramtengu to Trippakulangara *via* Ochira, the distance being about 3½ miles.

(3) a road from Todiyil to Vallikkavu *via* Kulasekharapuram, the distance being about 6 miles;

(4) a road from Karunagapalli Taluk Cutcherry to Sastankotta;

(5) a road from Puchakkada on the Karunagapalli-Kayankulam road to Alappad on the shore of the back-water;

(6) widening the road from Changankulangara to Pandakasala landing place; and

(7) a road eastward from Changankulangara to Vallikkunnam.

The Tazhatodu, a canal extending from Vattakayal to Kayankulam lake, which served irrigation and drainage purposes should be cleared and kept in proper repair. It was not desirable to widen it too much. The Krishnapuram canal from Todiyil to Kayankulam lake should be improved and its banks should be strengthened. Several small water-courses in the western *pakuthies* had to be kept in proper repair for protecting paddy cultivation, cocoanut trees and houses from floods.

Pannitodu extending from Athanad to Vallikkavu should be kept in proper condition. The water-courses in Prayikkara, Putuppalli *pakuthi*, leading from Parapalli-Mekkevila and other fields eastwards to the Tazhatodu should also be cleared. The Member next suggested that the *porambokes* recently assigned near the landing place at Sriramapuram market place, Karunagapalli, should be re-assumed by the Government in the public interests. It was also desirable to construct a dam in the upper reaches of the Kulakkada river or to utilise the water of the Sastankotta lake, if possible, for irrigation purposes. If that was not feasible, the old tanks in the taluk should be restored. In that connection, the Member referred to a previous representation of his made at previous sessions of the Assembly, namely, the formation of local boards and Village Panchayats to which the execution of local public works could be entrusted. But the Member opined that, on that account, no additional tax or cess should be imposed.

The Member next referred to the urgent need for a segregation hospital for lepers and other incurables who flocked in large numbers at Ochira for worship and stated that there was some correspondence about it.

Lastly, the Member requested that the Malimel canal in Tazhava should be deepened from Valiatura landing place upwards for about a mile. He said that that would be a great help to tile manufacture, as it would facilitate the transport of clay from the fields to the tile-making centres in Quilon.

President's reply.—Mr. Raman Menon, the question of allocating funds for each taluk, commensurate with the income derived therefrom, as you yourself hinted, and the other member pointed out, is a question of policy; and it has to be considered as a general question affecting not only this taluk, but the whole State.

Member.—But our taluk has been entirely neglected.

President.—You have suggested the adoption of a general principle, and if that is to be followed, it must be consistently followed.

Then, as regards your representation regarding the execution of works and the preparation of plans therefor, you say that those things should be decided upon by the P. W. D. officers in consultation with the people of the place. I suppose what is meant is that the P. W. D. officers should consult the respectable inhabitants of the locality. Now the Chief Engineer tells me that as a rule estimates and plans are prepared after full local enquiry and investigation. Probably, in some instances, the results may not be quite satisfactory. But, generally, in making their investigations, I understand that they do make the necessary local enquiries also before coming to some definite decision and beginning work. This principle will be kept in view.

Then, about the gradients of the Putuppalli foot-bridge, the Chief Engineer will be asked to look into the matter and do the needful so as to prevent the harm the people are reported to be suffering from.

You wanted the improvement of the roads from east to west; one road for the northern *pakuthies* will be taken up in 1100.

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With regard to the maintenance of canals, I understand that you want only their being cleared of obstructions. That will be looked into and the needful done.

As regards the Karunagapalli market landing place, you mentioned that *poramboke*s have been registered in the names of private individuals and that these lands should be acquired. That matter will be considered.

As regards the schemes relating to the supply of water from the Kulakkada river and the Sastankotta lake, the latter is not feasible and the former is a costly affair.

Re. the restoration of tanks, it would be very well if you could tell us what tanks are in urgent need of repair, so that we may take them up, and the Chief Engineer will be asked to do the needful in the matter.

Re. the segregation hospital at Ochira, you referred to some correspondence showing what has already been done. Some land has been acquired. I understand that Government ordered that the opening of a Leper Asylum at Padanayarkulangara was unnecessary, and that the disposal of lands acquired for this asylum, as at first contemplated, is pending consideration. The matter will again be referred to the Darbar Physician.

You referred to local boards and Village Panchayats. A Bill on the subject is pending legislation. You stated that no cess should be levied. Of course it is a matter for legislation. It will be considered when the Village Panchayat Bill comes before the Legislative Council.

As regards deepening the Malimel *todu* from Valiatura landing upwards, the Government will ask the Chief Engineer to report after inspection. He will also be asked to see whether your suggestions regarding dredging can be carried out.

121. Needs of the Karunagapalli taluk.

Mr. V. Krishnaswami Aiyar (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) represented the need for carrying out the following works :—

(1) Reconstruction of the Kannetti bridge.

(2) Gravelling the road from Alumkadavu to Karunagapalli and putting up a jetty at Maruturkulangara.

(3) Opening a road from Kannetti bridge to Kozhikkodu leading to the backwater.

(4) Gravelling the road from Kuttivattam, Karunagapalli-Kamankulamgara road, to the 4th mile, Chavara-Sastankotta road.

(5) Constructing a bridge across the Nindakara bar or making other suitable provision for the transport of cars and other vehicles across the bar.

(6) Construction of a T. B. or a satrom at Karunagapalli for the convenience of officers and travellers.

(7) Conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital.

(8) Making suitable provision for Sriramapuram market.

(9) Construction of a building for locating the Munsiff's court.

(10) Construction of embankments on both sides of the Chavara canal.

(11) Opening a cattle pound at Karunagapalli.

President's reply.—Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar, you said that the road should be extended up to the lamp post or the jetty must be extended to the south-west. The Chief Engineer says that he will do the needful. As regards the gravelling of the road, we shall call for an estimate.

Member.—There is one already.

President.—It is a big one and it will have to be revised.

As regards a bridge at Nindakara, it is a very costly affair. After all, as you yourself have stated, everything resolves itself into a question of finance.

So far as transport is concerned, from what the Chief Engineer says, I understand that there is no difficulty of the kind you mention, *viz.*, that you have to

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